

Amendment Dated December 15, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) Method for diagnosing malfunctions of apparatus delivering goods or services against payment, of the automatic terminal (1) type, ~~which~~ said method is characterized in that it consists in comprising the steps of:

calculating the value of at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1);

comparing said calculated value to a predetermined reference value[,] ; and  
deducing the occurrence of a malfunction in the event of a predetermined difference between said values.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1) is representative of the frequency of payments made at said apparatus (1).

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1) is the time that has elapsed since the last payment made to said apparatus (1).

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4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1) is the time that has elapsed since the last payment made via said apparatus (1) for each of the payment means accepted by said apparatus (1).

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said reference value is representative of the average of values taken by said data item representative of the operation of the apparatus (1).

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said reference value depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus (1) concerned.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said predetermined difference depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus (1) concerned.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the operations of calculating a data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1) and comparing the calculated value and a predetermined reference value are effected directly by said apparatus (1).

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9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the operations of calculating a data item representative of the operation of said apparatus (1) and comparing the calculated value and a predetermined reference value are partly or completely effected by a server (5) adapted to communicate with said apparatus (1).

10. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said apparatus is a terminal for paying for parking spaces, such as a parking voucher dispenser or a parking meter.